

Crested Gecko Genetic Morphology



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Abstract

Crested Geckos are social creatures that can form bonds and sexually mate. Females may produce up to two eggs per month during the breeding season.

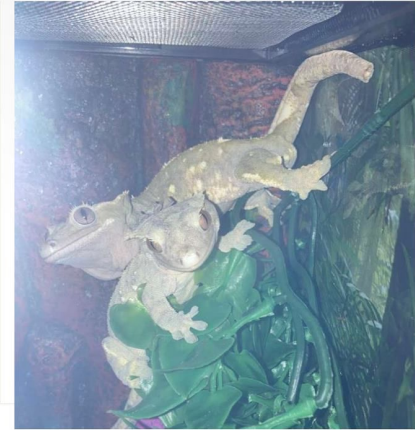
Introduction

The Mandell Small Animal Laboratory contains a sexually frustrated male crested gecko who mates with the technicians that handle him. Ms. Crawford bought a female adult crested gecko from a reptile expo, named *Cleo*, in hopes of introducing the two and successfully mating to determine any underlying characteristics that would transfer to the offspring.



Methods

1. Receive IACUC approval to introduce *Cleo* to the laboratory setting. Allow for a seven-day quarantine period.
2. Slowly introduce the male and female gecko by placing the male into the female tank, supervised for thirty minutes.
3. After three meetings, allow overnight interaction
4. If bond forms, allow geckos to live together.
5. Monitor for signs of gravidity and mating behavior.



Results

Geckos showed signs of mating behavior such as redness of the neck and body on the male. Successful mating recorded on 3/3/22. Eggs laid and found 4/19/22. Eggs to incubate for two months.



Discussion

The female adjusted within the laboratory quickly and meetings were able to start after the quarantine period. The three supervised meetings went very well, both geckos showing interest in each other. The first over-night resulted in a small bite wound on the male crested gecko's nose. The meetings were stopped while the wound took time to heal. After the initial wound, no other evidence of harm was seen. The geckos created a bond and *Cleo* first appeared gravid on 3/17/22. Eggs were expected earlier because of how large the eggs looked within the female. Eggs were found and set to incubate.

References

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Conclusion

The geckos bonded and mated successfully producing one clutch of eggs thus far. The project will have to continue to produce more offspring to analyze morphologic patterns.